4. The Core Group may co-opt such additional members as deemed necessary.

(S. NIGAM)
JOINT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

Copy to Members of the Core Group.

World Banks' study on sugar industry

871. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have opposed the World Bank move to undertake a study on the sugar industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food is of the view that as most of the policy issues relating to the sugar sector have already been examined by various Committees which are now being processed for taking a final decision, the proposed study on the sugar sector by the World Bank does not appear to be necessary at this stage.

EPZs in Bihar

872. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have established Export Processing Zones in the country for encouraging exports;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how many such Zones have been set up in Bihar;

(c) whether any improvement has taken place in Indian exports after the establishment of these Zones;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if no, EPZs have been set up in Bihar, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are functioning in the country located at Kandla (Gujarat), Bombay (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), There is no EPZ in Bihar.

(c) and (d) Exports by industrial units in EPZs during 1994-95 was Rs. 2653.11 crores which accounted for 3.22% of the total exports from the country.

(e) Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing EPZs, there is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up new Zones in the country. However, EPZs can now also be established by the State Governments or in the joint/private sectors.

In addition, with a view to involve the State Governments in export efforts, an Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme has now been drawn up which envisages of central assistance towards development by the State Government of Industrial infrastructure with an export orientation.

Under this scheme, the Central Government has also approved a proposal of the Bihar Government for setting up of such a Park at Hajipur in District Vaishali during 1994-95.

Non Payment of Arrears of Sugar Cane by Sugar Mills

873. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugarmill owners have withheld the payment of Rs. 900 crore due to sugarcane growers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has caused much resentment among the

sugarcane growers and also put them to great difficulties;

(c) the reasons for withholding such an amount specially when the demand for sugar has increased; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government to such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by sugar factories, the position of arrears of cane price relating to the current season 1994-95 as on 15.6.1995 were about Rs. 442.44 crores which represents 6.12% of the total cane price payable.

(c) Delay in the payment of cane price could be attributed to a number of factors, such as poor financial position of the sugar mill, high cost of production, high State-advised cane price, inadequate sales realisation, etc.

(d) Ensuring timely payment of cane price by the sugar factories is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who have got the necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. Central Government has requested the State Governments to take necessary steps to liquidate the cane price arrears.

Bad Debts Reserve of Super Bazar

874. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of bad debts reserve of Super Bazar as on 31st October, 1994, branch-wise;

(b) the total amount written off as bad debts by each of the above Super Bazar branches up to 31st October, 1994 under compromise proposal; and

(c) to total number of classified sick and loss making branches and the advances to them by each of above branches of Super Bazar as on 31st October, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) It has been reported by Super Bazar that as on 31.3.94, the total amount of reserve for doubtful debts was Rs.55.28 lakhs. Super Bazar maintains accounts for financial year and doubtful debt accounts are not maintained branchwise.

(b) Super Bazar has reported that an amount of Rs.11.92 lakhs was written off as debt during 1989-90 and that no other amount has been written off as bad debt in any other year.

(c) Super Bazar has reported that they do not have as system of inter branch advances. It has been reported that five branches and six medicine outlets have been closed down on the basis of a review of sale performance and viability.

Profit Limit on Consumer Items

875. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of fixing a profit limit on consumer items charged by manufacturers has been referred by Government to a panel;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and detail of the panel;

(c) whether any time frame has been given to the panel for submission of report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) An expert Committee has been constituted by the Ministry under The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 to recommend the best method of declaring the sale price on